

SBA DISASTER NEWS

Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U.S. Small Business Administration – Area 3 Disaster Office – 14925 Kingsport Road – Fort Worth, TX 76155 – 1-800-366-6303

DATE: August 28, 2003 Release Number: 03-264 CONTACT:

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SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

FORT WORTH, TX – On July 23, 2003 forest fires and the closure of entrances to Glacier National Park caused several businesses in Flathead, Glacier, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Lincoln, Sanders, and Teton Counties and the contiguous Counties of Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Jefferson, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell, and Toole in Montana to suffer substantial financial and economic losses. As a result of this declaration, businesses in these counties can now apply for disaster loan assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to eligible small businesses that suffered a substantial loss of income as a result of these conditions. These loans are not intended to cover any physical damages resulting from this disaster.

To obtain an application, or have questions answered; interested business owners should attend one of the SBA Disaster Assistance Meetings; visit a Disaster Loan Workshop; or call the SBA toll-free number 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688, for the hearing impaired. The initial Disaster Assistance meetings and Workshops are listed below, others will be scheduled as the need warrants. The deadline for filing an application is May 26, 2004.

This disaster loan is a working capital loan that can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this loan program. The loan is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster-related needs and will supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans are available for up to \$1,500,000 of actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 2.953% and terms may extend to thirty (30) years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant.

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SBA will hold Town Meetings and Loan Workshops at the following times and locations:

West Glacier

Town Meeting:

Wednesday, September 3 (7:00 PM)

Community Building

Glacier Park Headquarters

West Glacier, MT

Loan Workshop: Thurs/Fri, September 4-5 (9AM-6PM)

Glacier Natural History Association

12557 Highway 2 East West Glacier, MT **Ronan**

Town Meeting: Wednesday, September 3 (7:00 PM) Loan Workshop: Thurs/Fri, September 4-5 (9AM-6PM)

Ronan Community Center

300 3rd Avenue NW

Ronan, MT

Kalispell

Town Meeting: Monday, September 8 (7:00 PM) Loan Workshop:Tues/Wed, Sept 9-10 (9AM-6PM)

(Closing at 12:00 noon on Sept. 10) Flathead City/County Health

1035 1st Avenue West

Kalispell, MT

Thompson Falls

Town Meeting: Monday, September 8 (7:00 PM) Loan Workshop: Tues/Wed, Sept 9-10 (9AM-6PM)

> (Closing at 12:00 noon on Sept. 10) Thompson Falls Community Center

Thompson Falls, MT

St. Mary

Town Meeting:

Wednesday, September 10 (7:00 PM)

Loan Workshop: Thurs/Fri, Sept 11-12 (9AM-6PM)

St. Mary Lodge St. Mary, MT **Libby**

Town Meeting: Wednesday, September 10 (7:00 PM) Loan Workshop: Thurs/Fri, Sept 11-12 (9AM-6PM)

Libby City Hall, Ponderosa Rm.

952 East Spruce Street

Libby, MT

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For more information about the SBA Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/disaster.